

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) A method for controlling an ultrasonic surgical handpiece, comprising the steps of:

providing a switch located on a housing;

monitoring pressure applied to the switch;

activating the handpiece at a first power level if the monitored pressure reaches a first threshold;

deactivating the handpiece if the monitored pressure reaches a second threshold; [[and]]

providing a switching functionality according to a lagging effect as the monitored pressure is changed; and

operating the handpiece at a power level proportional to the monitored pressure.

62. (original) The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of operating the handpiece at a power level selected from a plurality of power levels if the monitored pressure reaches a specific threshold of a respective plurality of thresholds corresponding to the plurality of power levels.

63.(original) The method of claim 61 wherein the pressure is monitored by a sensor located inside the housing of the handpiece selected from a group consisting of an electro-mechanical switch, a force-sensitive resistor, force sensitive capacitor, strain gauge, magnet, ferromagnet, piezo film and piezo ceramic.

64.(previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the switch is generally aligned with a blade as the blade is rotated.

65-68. (canceled)

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